

# FOR US



**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Seymour, IN  
February 18, 2026**

# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

**Welcome to Worship!** Why did Jesus have to come among us as a human being? Why didn't He come as an angel or some other kind of being that is stronger and more powerful than us? While angels may be a source of endless fascination to the Christian and to the world, they have no power to save us. In this week's sermon, we will hear why taking on the "robe of [our] human frame" was not only a good idea but also necessary for our salvation. Angels are wonderful, but they are not Jesus. He came as one of us so that He could redeem us as His own.

**Ashes** are an ancient symbol of repentance after which this day is named. Those who desire may receive an ashen cross on the forehead 15 minutes prior to each service.

**Holy Communion:** If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church and wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms when standing at the rail. Gluten free wafers are in plastic sleeves. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one from the tray. Wine with alcohol removed is in the tray center.

+ DIVINE SERVICE III, Page 184 +

**THE PRELUDE: 4:30** "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee" -Samuel Scheidt

**7:00** "Savior When in Dust to Thee" - Sam Eatherton

**THE OPENING HYMN:** "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

**Hymn 915**

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

## THE INVOCATION:

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

## THE EXHORTATION:

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord, C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

## THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## THE ABSOLUTION

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. CAmen.

## THE KYRIE

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

*(We omit the GLORIA IN EXCESIS during Lent)*

## THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (We pray together)

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Joel 2:12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a

solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The LORD answered and said to His people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God!

**THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10**

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God!

**THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 C: (Sing) Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . . And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure

their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **(Sing) Praise to You, O Christ!**

**THE HYMN: "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"**

**Hymn 419**

- 1 Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the\_adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!
  - 2 By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,  
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the\_insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!
  - 3 By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!
  - 4 By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!
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**THE SERMON: "For Us He Comes in Love"**

**THE NICENE CREED: Page 191**

**THE PRAYERS**

**THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: Page 194 - 202**

**Preface**

P The Lord be with you. C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. C **It is meet and right so to do.**

**Sanctus**

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

**Anthems: 4:30 "O Come, Let Us Fix Our Eyes on Jesus" & Lent Canon"**

**7:00 "Create In Me a Clean Hear" -John Leavitt**

**Hymns: 544, 610, 623, 624, 706**

**544 O Love, How Deep**

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2 He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,  
But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.

3 For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore;  
For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter overthrew.

4 For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,  
By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

## 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,  
I may the\_ eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

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## 623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the gift of love retold;  
All that You are we here receive, And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim Your love until You come To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be Your welcomed guest In heaven's high and holy feast.

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## 624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He, Anointed from eternity.
- 2 This great High Priest in human flesh Was icon of God's righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity; His hand removed impurity.
- 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came To God's own altar lit with flame;  
While weeping angels hid their eyes, This Priest became a sacrifice.

- 4 But death would not the victor be Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place Within the veil, before God's face.
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat, A priestly food and priestly meat;  
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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### **706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living**

- 1 Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving. May His will in us be done.
- 2 Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ's humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.
- 3 Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life's end.

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### **THE NUNC DIMITTIS**

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face  
of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **THE THANKSGIVING**

**P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

### **THE SALUTATION**

**P The Lord be with you. C: And with thy spirit.**

### **THE BENEDICAMUS**

**P Bless we the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

**P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.**

**The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. C Amen.**

### **THE CLOSING HYMN: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"**

**Hymn 423**

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
  
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.
  
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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**THE POSTLUDE: "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow" -David Maxwell**

**Preacher:** Pastor Philip E. Bloch **Lector:** Vicar Max Johnston

**Liturgists:** Pastor Ralph Blomenberg & Pastor Will Fredstrom

**Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer **Children's Choir(4:30)**

**Adult & Youth Choir(7:00) Woodwinds(7:00)**

*Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at [www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com).*

**4:30 pm Acolyte:** Jennifer Jones **Elders:** Corey Zaring, Joe Bullard, Keith Stam **Audio:** Jordan Richart

**7:00 pm Ushers:** Kurt Fenneberg, Brent Kilgas, Ben Thompson, Brian Burbrink, Baron Bullard, Dale VonDielingen, Greg Wehmiller, Roger Wehmiller, Will Borcharding, Tony Combs, Gary Schneider, Jay Hubbard, Daniel Luecke, Jed Strange **Elders:** Walter Batman, Brent Wichman, Matt Pumphrey **Counting:** Jeff Hubbard, Kevin Foster, Charles Fox, Greg Hackman, Grant Schneider, Craig Flinn **Altar Guild:** Sandee Helwig **Acolyte:** Lane Kleber **Audio/Video:** Grant VonDielingen, Walter Batman

*Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Youth Board. 5:00 – 6:15 p.m.*

**Immanuel Midweek Services, Wednesdays, 4:30 & 7:00 P.M.**

**February 25 For Us He Took on Flesh**

**March 4 For Us He Fights the Tempter**

**March 11 For Us He Searches**

**March 18 For Us He Heals**

**March 25 For Us He Suffers**

